

SECRET CONTROL

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES FORCES AUSTRIA  
SSU, WD MISSION TO AUSTRIA  
APO 777

*Symphony*

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Vienna, Austria  
SGI/A

Field Hq. File No. LVX 230

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE:	PERIOD COVERED:	MADE BY:
Vienna	1 May 46	- 1 May 46	DD 110

SUBJECT; GENERAL: Project SYMPHONY

SPECIFIC: Dr. KASTNER and Eng. BYESZ

SOURCE: LILAC

REFERENCE: LVX 207, LVX 216, LVX 217

COMMENT: Attached is translation of report from LILAC.

EVALUATION: B-3

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- 4 Washington
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

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1. Samuel SPRINGMAN was leader of the JOINT in Budapest until November 1943. In December 1944 he, and his wife left for Palestine and transmitted his duties to KASTNER (alias Dr. KRASZNER) who worked together with Joel BRANDT. Dr. KASTNER originates from Klausenburg (Koloszvar). In the middle of June 1944 I asked Dr. KASTNER to be included in a transport of Jews to Palestine. He asked anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 pengo (at that time \$1 was worth 30 pengo on the black market). After I had told him that I was SHEILACH ERI, he promised to transport me for nothing. I met him on 27 June 1944 in the apartment of Joel BRANDT and gave him my whole fortune consisting of 265 napoleons d'or. I also met there his wife and his other collaborator, Ing. BYESZ. KASTNER declared that the transport leader (his own brother) would give me the countervalue once we arrived in Spain or in Palestine. At the conversation were present Ing. BYESZ and a certain SANTHO, Laszlo, who was in KASTNER's service. I was later arrested by the Gestapo.

6 2. In June 1944 I heard from Dr. TOUCHMAN in Vienna that Dr. KASTNER and Ing. BYESZ had fled from the Russians to Pressburg and Vienna whence they went to Switzerland and joined Saly-Mayer in Geneva (delegate of the JOINT in Switzerland). I also heard that BYESZ was coming back to Vienna, Budapest and Bucharest to distribute money for the refugees there. I heard later through the International Red Cross that BYESZ had been arrested by the French authorities in Vorarlberg.

3. In the beginning of August 1945 I met a certain Gyula GROSS. (See LVX 217). He told me that the French had found and confiscated on BYESZ's person a large amount of Swiss francs and a great number of gold watches. Dr. KASTNER and BYESZ were apparently wanted by the Russian authorities and the Hungarian State police for different swindles and for having taken money and jewels from the Jews.

4. KASTNER's former employee, SANTHO, was arrested by the Russians for eight weeks and is now in a Hungarian jail whence he was liberated after eight weeks.

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